

Mayor David Anderson called the regularly scheduled council meeting of March 6, 2012 to order at 7:00 p.m. Present for the meeting were Mayor Anderson, Council President Mike Klaus, Council Members Rick Alonzo, Connie Wells, and Tom Mayo, Clerk Kris Larson, City Administrator Stephen Boorman, Assistant City Administrator David Sims, Acting Police Chief Joel Minor, Fire Chief Pat Warkentin, Economic Development Coordinator Mike Sloan. Also present were Terri Maine, Jennifer Jensen, Derek Blumenschein, Elsie Hollenbeck, Carolyn Testa, Dave Gray, Gene Andrews, Doug Ladely, Sr., Ruth Sutton, Dale Simpson, Monat Coon, Dorothy Smith, Barb Hansen, Gail Cathcart, Ron Frederickson, Kevin Frederickson, Arnold and Lisa Tuttle, Bob Spalding, Clarice McKenney, Corey Bowlby, Jennifer Keene, Phillip Sweet, Brian Woods, Donna Nystrom, Dave Gause, Colet Allen, Lynn Feldman, Eileen Marcotte, Eric Frankson, and Claine Skeen.

The public hearing for garbage rates was the first order of business. Stephen Boorman said that the fee increase hearing is based on recycling program. He said the current two recycling sites are estimated to cost an additional \$1.50 per month and if curbside recycling is done on a biweekly basis it is estimated to cost an additional \$4.50 per month. Stephen read the results of the garbage survey that was sent out to the city garbage customers. Rick Alonzo said there were approximately 300 people who responded to the garbage survey. Mayor Anderson said Boundary County has a small community exemption for operation of the landfill and that is only if the tonnage is kept less than 20 tons per day. Currently the citizens of Bonners Ferry pay about \$20 less than Boundary County residents and that is due to the city having a contractor who picks up the garbage from the city residents. He said the county came to the city and asked to help with the tonnage reduction at the landfill. Mayor Anderson said the tonnage has dropped from 18 tons per day to 11 tons per day. There are two recycling stations – one at the Restorium and the other at the Junior High School. He said the city has been spending the garbage reserves to keep the recycling program going during this experimental period. Mayor Anderson opened the floor to the public for comments.

Brian Woods, Attorney for Frederickson's B.F. Garbage, spoke on behalf of the Frederickson's due to Ron losing his voice. He said the Frederickson's have a long standing business that has served the community. When the city asked the Garbage Company to come up with costs for the recycle programs, it was determined that \$1.50 was for the two remote recycle sites or \$4.25 for biweekly curbside pickup. Brian said after further thought, it was determined that biweekly curbside could be done for \$3.25 to \$3.50 per month. He said Frederickson's have tried to keep the rates low without increasing rates since 2005. Concerns on the collection point system is that garbage may be put in the recycle containers since the sites are unmanned; the lid is sometimes left open; risk of overflows in the containers; there is no controls for outside city limit people using the bins; or commercial businesses using the recycle bins. The negative side for curbside is that Frederickson's have the recycle bins at no cost to the consumer. He said if there is a preference, the Frederickson's would like to see curbside due to no dumping, less likelihood of messes since the pickup will be biweekly, better controls for the recyclables, and better

participation rate may occur, ease of use for residents since the pickup is at their homes, less chance of conflict between the city and the county due to the non-recyclables being taken to the landfill. Brian also said the recyclables on the curbside program will be measurable which may help the county see that the city is lessening the amount of tonnage in the landfill.

Arnold Tuttle spoke of Fodge's Mill having an article in the Herald where he could use garbage to fuel his eco-friendly business and questioned why the city would even consider a rate increase with fees as high as they currently are.

Monat Coon asked when the city started charging every resident for garbage. Mayor Anderson said he thinks the city has charged for garbage for 30 or 40 years. She does not want to pay for city garbage collection because she doesn't use the service and takes all her garbage and recyclables to the landfill. She said the water and electric rates are going up and feels like this may force her out of her home. She would like to see a waiver system in place for those not using garbage.

Elsie Hollenbeck said she appreciates Frederickson's, the city, and the county for their efforts. It is upsetting to her to see her neighbors not recycling. She said recycling will help to keep the landfill open longer and that will help everyone in the long run. She is on a fixed income but is still in favor of the continuance of a recycling program. Curbside recycling would be an incentive for people because the people will have to pay much more if the landfill is closed. Elsie said sometimes the Junior High site is full so she would like to see curbside recycling.

Clarice McKenney said she was against recycling increase in the beginning. She has always recycled. She has noticed that since we have the recycle bins that her garbage has decreased from three cans to one can per week and was hopeful that they could get a break on the garbage fees they pay. She would rather have curbside and likes the proposal of \$3.25 rather than \$4.50.

Dorothy Smith would like to see garbage waivers for garbage charges. She has a home next to hers that is vacant and does not use garbage services and wants the city to look into the waiver program. She asked about containers for recycling. Ron Frederickson said they would provide an 18 gallon bin for the residents to use on the recycle pickup if curbside recycling is put in place.

Mayor Anderson recessed the hearing at 7:32 p.m.

Arnold and Lisa Tuttle left the meeting.

Phillip Sweet spoke to council. He said he moved a house in February, 2010 and did not get a bill until December, 2010. He said he did not know he had a bill and spoke to the City Administrator because he thought the bill was too high. His bill is \$158.16 and there was only one wire lifted. He said it only took 17 minutes to move the house. The city sent four men out with two different trucks to lift one wire. The charge for moving the house was \$300 but he

thinks the cost of lifting the wire was excessive. When he did not hear from the city in ten months, he did not think he would be billed. He thinks the charges are excessive and asked if the bill can be cut in half. Mayor Anderson will speak to Administration and said the timing of the bill is a point and will look into the issue.

Barbara Hansen from the Farmers Market spoke to the group about the renewal for the contract for 2012. She said for 24 weeks out of the year the Farmers Market brings in tourists and people from in and outside the community. She said they are facilitators of the event and the Farmers Market does not make any money but survive on contributions from the vendors. The Farmers Market provides a service to the community and allows people to test the waters with their hobbies and entrepreneurial skills. They appreciate the city acknowledging their contribution to the city and appreciate the support. She said in future years they respectfully request that the finances can be negotiated from ten percent of their contributions and said this is commensurate with what the City of Sandpoint does. Mayor Anderson asked about the Car Show using the parking lot one day. Gail Cathcart said no one has contacted anyone from the Farmers Market and said they cannot make a decision until someone from the Car Club contacts them.

Acting Police Chief Joel Minor gave the police report. He said there have been two driving without privileges, two DUIs, two invalid driver licenses, one unattended death, one inattentive driving, five warrant arrests, three vehicle accidents, three controlled substance arrests, and a domestic. The advertisement for the open patrol position vacated by Officer Hubbard will be closed on this Friday.

Fire Chief Pat Warkentin said there is nothing to report for the fire department.

City Administrator Stephen Boorman said the results of the ICRMP discount program were compiled and submitted by Christine and thanked her for her efforts. He said there is a bathroom remodel project at city hall being done due to a toilet that leaked and ruined the floor. David Sims said there has been a dike inspection and there is another site that is being washed away. They have spoken to the Corps of Engineers and the Idaho Transportation Department about the site and it is due to a willow tree on the bank of the river.

Mike Klaus said there is an urban renewal agency meeting on March 12, 2012 at the visitor center and they are working on an agreement with Super 1.

Clarice McKenney left the meeting.

Connie Wells moved to add the discussion of garbage rates, approve quote for Kennedy Street/Super 1 waterline project, and authorize the Mayor to sign a utility easement with Department of Homeland Security for the border patrol property. Tom Mayo seconded the motion. The motion passed – Mike Klaus “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Connie Wells moved to approve the consent agenda. Rick Alonzo seconded the motion. The motion passed – Mike Klaus “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”. The consent agenda contained the following: roll call; approval of accounts payable and payroll; approval of February 21, 2012 council meeting minutes; approval for two employees to attend the NWPPA Engineering and Operations Conference in Spokane in April, 2012; and approval for three employees to attend training classes for the Street Department.

Stephen Boorman spoke regarding the Farmers Market contract for 2012. He said there is a representative here from the Car Club tonight. The three differences in the 2012 contract from the 2011 contract are establishing the map of the spaces in the parking lot to be used, the amount of the contract, and the first weekend of June the Car Show requested use of the parking lot. Gene Andrews, President of the Car Club, said he would like to meet with the Farmers Market and learn of concerns the Farmers Market has during the Car Show so the discussion may be a bit premature tonight. Gene said the Car Club has permission to expand to the west of Main Street as a contingency plan if the parking lot is not available.

Mike Klaus said there is no problem tabling the Farmers Market issue. Rick agreed and said the only complaint he has heard about the Farmers Market is when the personal vehicles of the vendors take up parking space but feels the market is a good thing. Gail Cathcart said the Farmers Market has cracked down on the vendors but there is one vendor that may use more space but they are a participant in every event in the city. She said they understand that it is a privilege to use the parking lot and said if there is abuse noted that she would like to have it reported to a board member of the Farmers Market. Gail said the signage is confusing in the city parking lot regarding 24 hour parking. She asked if these signs can be covered during the summer. Stephen explained the reasoning for the signage due to snow removal. Gail said the Farmers Market is paying \$100 for the city to hang their banners now. The spring vendor meeting is at the end of March. Mayor Anderson said he is interested in attending. Gail offered for the Board of the Farmers Market to meet with the Mayor anytime. Mike Klaus moved to table the Farmers Market 2012 contract. Connie Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor.

Garbage fee increase was discussed. Mike Klaus said he is now recycling and thinks it is great as his garbage has decreased from three cans per week to two cans per week. He said everyone needs to do their best by keeping the tonnage down at the landfill. He said the yard waste prohibition last spring was probably the largest effort made by the city as far as tonnage put in the landfill. Mike thinks the \$1.50 per month is where he is leaning. Rick Alonzo gave an example of what the \$1.50 per month means to most people and what \$1.50 would buy. He said he is now recycling and people in the city should not be more than one mile from one of the recycle sites and a person cannot haul their recycling to the landfill for less than \$1.50. He said he now kind of likes the \$3.25 figure presented this evening for curbside pickup. Connie Wells also recycles and was thinking the \$1.50 was best option but now that the \$3.25 has been proposed for curbside she thinks this may be best and wants to look at the issue further. Tom

Mayo said he recycles and thinks city residents have been harmed somewhat by no yard waste being hauled. He would like to table the issue and look into other options. Mayor Anderson asked Ron about a curbside firm number. Ron said \$3.25 is his estimated cost. Tom Mayo asked how often the bins are being dumped. Ron said they are picking up the recyclables twice a week now and basically we are at the \$1.50 cost now and this may increase if the county stops doing their recycle pickup. Connie Wells asked about garbage and curbside recycle pickups. Ron will do the regular garbage pickup as they do now but may combine two of the current four routes. He said one of the recycle routes would be on the garbage day and the other would not. Rick Alonzo said one of the comments was picking up garbage one week and recyclables the next week at no extra charge to the customer. Ron said this would not work for everyone. Rick agreed this would be a problem in the summer. Tom said this would not work because some people have three cans of garbage per week. Tom Mayo moved to table the issue tonight. Connie Wells seconded the motion. Mike Klaus "yes", Rick Alonzo "yes", Connie Wells "yes", Tom Mayo "yes".

Mayor Anderson closed the garbage fee increase hearing at 8:12 p.m.

Mayor Anderson proposed appointing Don Lindsay, John Marquette, and Dean Satchwell to the traffic safety committee. Mike Klaus moved to reappoint Don Lindsay and John Marquette and appoint Dean Satchwell to the traffic safety committee. Rick Alonzo seconded the motion. The motion passed - Mike Klaus "yes", Rick Alonzo "yes", Connie Wells "yes", Tom Mayo "yes".

Rick Alonzo spoke regarding the bereavement leave policy he has proposed. He said he changed the bereavement policy from the formerly proposed five days per year to three days per year. He said he understands that two personal leave days were granted for this purpose previously but that is not enough time. Connie Wells said she is glad the bereavement proposal changed from five days to three days but is not in favor of the additional time due to the long list of relatives noted and thinks sick leave can be used. Rick Alonzo said it is his understanding that sick leave cannot be used because in the past, there was an employee whose husband passed away and she had to use vacation time. Mayor Anderson likes a bereavement policy and likes that there are ways to get more days if necessary. Mike Klaus said he hopes that a death occurs so infrequently that people don't need to use it. He also likes that employees can use sick leave if the need arises. Rick Alonzo moved to make a personnel policy change to adopt a bereavement policy of three days and use sick leave, vacation leave, personal leave, comp time, or unpaid leave of absence for any other time needed. Mike Klaus seconded the motion. Tom Mayo questioned whether a time limit needs to be set. Mike Klaus "yes", Rick Alonzo "yes", Connie Wells "no", Tom Mayo "yes".

Rick Alonzo moved to approve the beverage license for Toboggan Hill, LLC doing business as Coffee Creek Cabin. Tom Mayo seconded the motion. The motion passed - Mike Klaus "yes", Rick Alonzo "yes", Connie Wells "yes", Tom Mayo "yes".

David Sims gave a waste water power point presentation. He said the city uses lagoons to treat its waste water and the ponds are facultative. There are anaerobic processes (without oxygen) at the bottom of the ponds and aerobic processes (with oxygen) at the top of the ponds. It takes about 20 days for wastewater to go through the system. The depth of the lagoon ponds is a problem due to them being shallow and this causes algae growth. Rick Alonzo asked if we can make the ponds deeper. David said theoretically they could be made deeper but there is no alternate piping or valves between the ponds so it is difficult to close off one pond at a time. The city has passed the leak test and this is good for ten years. Stephen said the ability to not bypass a pond is painful and when we do upgrades again this should be done.

David said after the wastewater has gone through the lagoons it is treated with chlorine and is discharged in the river so we have to have a permit from EPA to do this. We submit monthly monitoring reports to EPA and Idaho DEQ. TSS and BOD are required to be reported. A new NPDES (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System) permit was garnered in November 2011 and the levels of BOD and TSS remained the same. Nitrogen and temperature monitoring have been added to our permit requirements. The city started using chlorine to control algae in 2009 and this gives good results most of the time but it is very expensive, about \$60,000 per year. We are also using sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate as an algaecide. Total suspended solids (TSS) limits have been under the permit levels since we started using chlorine. The BOD5 test is required. We are required to test biological oxygen demand (BOD) influent as well as effluent. He said our lagoon cannot handle a big operation for high BOD effluent. The city started dredging in 2008 and this helps rid the ponds of sludge and this has helped immensely. He explained the dredging process and that the waste is taken to the landfill. Additional aerators were installed in 2011 that were purchased with EECBG stimulus funding with the goal to decrease the BOD. These aerators were installed in ponds one and two. The city was successful in obtaining a DEQ grant for the sewer master plan and JUB Engineering is working on this. The target date for the master plan completion is summer 2012.

Mike Klaus asked how many equivalent dwelling units we have at the lagoons. David said we are at capacity now according to JUB based on the temperature and retention time method. In the past we were violating the TSS in the summer and BOD in the winter and now we are getting better data showing we have more capacity left. More flow through the lagoon just helps the transit time, not the treatment time. The dredging and aeration have helped quite a bit. Stephen said purchasing the dredger and paying an employee to do the work has been very helpful and was a good move.

The Kennedy Street waterline project was discussed. The quotes were for a check valve and vault portion; bore and connection portion; and 190 feet of eight inch pipe and valves to be installed. The Gem grant will pay for \$49,000 and the water reserves will pay the difference. The check valve and vault quote was for \$10,183.45 submitted by Mastre Backhoe; the bore and connection quote was for \$29,950.00 submitted by S&L Underground; and the 190 feet of eight inch pipe and valves installation quote was for \$22,300 submitted by Noble Construction. Rick

Alonzo moved to award the quotes as listed in the memo from Stephen Boorman. Mike Klaus seconded the motion. The motion passed – Mike Klaus “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

Stephen said we have USDA grant funding left and we will propose to bid the project from the Kennedy Street project bore south using a portion of these funds to pay for it.

Tom Mayo moved to authorize the Mayor to sign an easement with Department of Homeland Security for the Border Patrol property. Connie Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed – Mike Klaus “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Tom Mayo “yes”.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

David K. Anderson, Mayor

Attest:

Kris Larson, City Clerk